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NI BULLETIN

NUMISMATICS INTERNATIONAL
FOUNDED 1964

Volume 10 Number 1 Price . . . . One Dollar JANUARY 1976

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NEW ISSUES WITH ASSIGNED YEOMAN NUMBERS

(The catalog numbers assigned to new issue coin listings published here are supplied by special arrangement with Current Coins of the World, published and copyrighted by Western Publishing Company, Inc., Whitman Coin Products, Racine, Wisconsin, U.S.A. No further use of these numbers in any other publication is authorized.)

(NOTE: Listings preceded by * are to be designated as "Collectors' Coins" -- coins of acceptable legal tender status but made primarily for sale to collectors and not found in normal, everyday commerce.)

CANADA
*Y92 5 Dollars 1976, Fencing (38mm)
*Y93 5 Dollars 1976, Boxing (38mm)
*Y94 10 Dollars 1976, Soccer (45mm)
*Y95 10 Dollars 1976, Field Hockey (45mm)
(Y92-95: .925 Silver, Olympic Contact Sports Commemoratives)

CHILE (1975 Monetary Reform - 1 Peso = 1,000 Escudos)
Y122 5 Centavos 1975, Alum.-Bronze (20.8mm)
Y123 10 " " " " (22.6mm)
Y124 50 Centavos 1975, Cupro-Nic. (21.5mm)
Y125 1 Peso 1975, Cupro-Nickel (28.7mm)

FALKLAND ISLANDS
*Y6 1/2 Sovereign 1974, .9167 Gold (19.3mm)
*Y7 1 Sovereign 1974, .9167 Gold (22mm)
*Y8 2 Pounds 1974, .9167 Gold (28.4mm)
*Y9 5 Pounds 1974, .9167 Gold (36mm)

IRAQ
Y31a 5 Fils 1975, Nickel
Y32a 10 Fils 1975, Nickel

ISLE OF MAN
*Y2a-7a 1/2, 1, 2, 5, 10 and 50 Pence 1975, Sterling Silver Proof Set
*Y2b-7b 1/2, 1, 2, 5, 10 and 50 Pence 1975, Platinum Proof Set
Y14 25 Pence 1975, Cupro-Nickel (38.6mm)
*Y14a 25 Pence 1975, .925 Silver (38.6mm)

SWAZILAND
*Y15 50 Emalangeni 1975, .900 Gold (20mm)
King's 75th Birthday Commemorative

SWITZERLAND
Y58 5 Francs 1975, Cupro-Nickel (31mm)
European Historical Monuments Comm.
* Possibly "Collectors' Coin"

(Continued on Page 25)

INSIDE N.I.

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

January 1976 Applications for Membership: The following persons have applied for membership. If no written objections are received by February 1, 1976, their membership will become effective that date. (MT = Will Trade by Mail)

1215-MT John J. McFadden, P. O. Box 351, Ft. Washington, Pa. 19034
(Dealer in Unusual of Anything. Early Portraits & Horsemen)

1216-MT Ben Chiu, 3 Lawrence Brook Dr., E. Brunswick, N. J. 08816
(China Coins)

1217-MT Oscar G. Ratnoff, 90 - 101st St., Fort Lee, N. J. 07024
(Dealer in Crowns & World Coins)

1218 Thomas J. Imig, 1037 Jenifer St., #2, Madison, Wisc. 53703

1219-MT John Deyell, 204L Eagle Heights Apts., Madison, Wisc. 53705
(All Indian Coins, Muslim)

1220 Charles J. Lombardo, 2609 S. Broad St., Trenton, N. J. 08610
(Dealer in World Coins)

1221 Ponterio & Wyatt, 3823 Park Boulevard, San Diego, Cal. 92103
(Dealers in World Coins)

Reinstatement: The following member has complied with the By-Laws and is hereby reinstated to full membership:

0845 Rev. Francis Conway, O. P., Dominican House of Studies, 487 Michigan Avenue, N. E., Washington, D. C. 20017
(Philippine Coins & Lazareto Tokens)

Regular Memberships Converted to Life Memberships:

LM-4 FOUNDER Kary T. Edwards, 2813 - 57th St., Lubbock, Texas 79413
(Primitive, Odd & Curious)

1976 Dues Reminder: Just a reminder, if you have not paid your 1976 dues, your dues are due effective January 1, 1976. All members should have received a dues statement with the mailing of the November issue of the NI Bulletin. Any member who has not received a dues notice and statement of his account should request same immediately in order not to have any interruption of your mailings from NI. 1976 dues have been set at $7.00 by the Board of Governors.

1976 NI Membership Roster: As mentioned in the "President's Message" published in the November issue of the NI Bulletin, a new membership roster is being prepared for publication early in 1976. A few important items should be reviewed by each member as follows:

1 - Your name and address will appear in the new roster in the same manner as on the outside of this month's mailing envelope.

2 - You must notify us if any change is to be made in your present mailing label.

3 - Any member desiring his name, address, or both, to be deleted from the 1976 list MUST notify us immediately. All previous requests for this deletion will not be considered as many members change their mind from time to time.

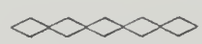
4 - Collecting Specialty - You must notify us if you want any Collecting Specialty listed, or if you want a change in the way it is presently listed in the 1974 Roster or in your published application for those who joined the organization after publication of the 1974 Roster. Many of the recent membership applicants who joined from the mailing of the application blank by Seven Seas Trading Co. do not have a Collecting Specialty listed with us. You must notify us if you want your specialty shown in the new roster.

DONATIONS REPORT

We wish to acknowledge receipt of the following donations since the last report:

Name	Donation and Stated Value	Preference of Use
Gerda Abart	$5.00 Cash	NI Reference Collection
Rolland L. Abart	$5.00 Cash	NI Reference Collection
Kenneth D. Borkowski	$3.00 Cash	NI Bulletin Fund
Thomas C. Dittrich	$13.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
Gerald Easton	$10.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
E. D. Ebert	$4.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
Marvin L. Fraley	80 coins ($106.40)	NI Reference Collection
Pierre Genier	1 - 1975 Swiss 5 Fr.	NI Reference Collection
Jack W. Hipkins	$1.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
Granvyl G. Hulse, Jr.	593 coins (NVS)	NI Reference Collection
John Jefferson	$5.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
Edwin Naef	$3.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
Charles K. Panish	$3.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
Thomas P. Rockwell	$5.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
Robert H. Salisbury	$5.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
Robert L. Thornton	$3.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
Harry I. Verket	$4.00 Cash	General Operating Fund
L. R. Weitzel, Jr.	$3.00 Cash	General Operating Fund

(NVS = No Value Stated)



LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

Acknowledgement is being made to the members listed below who have so kindly donated numismatic material to the NI Library:

Dwight L. Musser
Notgeld Collector's Guide

The Bank of England
The Bank of England Note: a short history

The above references, and all other references previously published in these reports, and in the 1974 Edition of the NI Library List, are available for 30-day loan periods. Copies of the 1974 NI Library List may be obtained upon request direct to the Librarian (see page 2 for address).

A new 1976 NI Library List is in preparation and will available early in 1976. Further details will be announced in these reports.

Carl Young, Librarian

SALUTATIONS A NOS MEMBRES DE LANGUE FRANÇAISE

NI dispose maintenant de personnes capable de traduire en Anglais vos articles traitant de numismatique, pour publication dans le Bulletin NI. Ceci a été rendu possible grâce á l'aimable participation de plusieurs membres multilingues qui nous ont bènèvolement offert leurs services.

Vous êtes donc cordialement invités á nous soumettre des articles rédigés en Français pour publication dans notre bulletin. Votre appui et coopération seront extrêmement appréciés.

L'Editeur du Bulletin NI

UN SALUDO A NUESTROS SOCIOS DE HABLA HISPANA

AHORA SU CLUB "NI" TIENE PERSONAL PARA TRADUCIR A INGLÉS SUS ARTÍCULOS SOBRE NUMISMÁTICA Y ASÍ PUBLICARLOS EN EL "NI BULLETIN". ESTO HA SIDO POSIBLE DEBIDO A LA BUENA COLABORACIÓN DE VARIOS DE NUESTROS SOCIOS BILINGÜES QUIENES HAN OFRECIDO SUS SERVICIOS A ESTE RESPECTO.

DE ESTA MANERA CON MUCHO GUSTO LES INVITAMOS A ENVIAR SUS ARTÍCULOS NUMISMÁTICOS ESCRITOS EN ESPAÑOL AL EDITOR PARA SU PUBLICACIÓN. DE ANTEMANO LES DAMOS NUESTRAS GRACIAS MUY SINCERAS POR EL APOYO QUE USTEDES BRINDEN AL CLUB CON EL ENVÍO DE SUS ARTÍCULOS.

DIRECTOR DE UN PERIÓDICO NI BULLETIN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

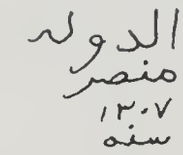
Qu'aiti Countermarks Revisited

I am happy to supply the transliterations/translations of the Qu'aiti countermarks published in the NIB for November (pp. 321-323). The large stamp variety is as follows:

سنه ١٣٠٧ منصر الدوله بن عبد الله القعيطي	sanah 1307 al-Daulat Mansur bin 'Abd-allah al-Qu'aiti	year 1889-90* The state of Mansur son of Abdallah the Qu'aiti

* 1307 begins August 28, 1889 and ends August 17, 1890.

The small counterstamp says:



al-Daulat	The state (or government)
Mansur	(of) Mansur
1307	1889-90
sanah	year

The map of the Arabian peninsula has allotted too much of Yemeni Democratic Republic territory to "North Yemen". The boundary between the old kingdom and the old crown colony goes right to the corner of the peninsula. Aden is in the sharp jut of land depicted on this map, and thus in "old Yemen". I realize, of course, these boundaries were meant to be approximate.

Patrick D. Hogan (NI #185)
Iowa City, Iowa

Likes NI

I believe the enclosed "other items" takes care of my dues for next year. I must say you're all doing a great job over there. NI is one organization where I am happy to renew my membership. Keep up the good work, especially in the NI Bulletin.

Michael T. Shutterly (NI #1108)
Boston, Mass.

Lesvos Island Counterstamped Coins Revisited

For convenience of future identification, some coins which are referred to by Mr. Papadopoulos in his article in the December, 1975 NIB (pp. 359-361) have been allocated numbers in accordance with the classification system used in the book Countermarks of the Ottoman Empire 1880-1922 by Samuel Lachman and myself (London 1974). They are marked below with an asterisk, the others are described in the book, and illustrated.

PLOUMARI I:	GRK 16/12	VASSILIKA:	GRK 02/03
PLOUMARI II:	GRK 04/01	ERESSOS:	GRK 05/04
PLOUMARI III:	GRK 11/01 +16/01	KLEIO:	GRK 10/13 (See Note 1)
AGGIASSOS:	GRK 01/07	VRYSSA:	GRK 02/05
BATERA:	GRK 02/01	ANTISSA:	GRK 01/40
VATTOUSSA:	GRK 02/06	PETRA:	GRK 16/13
KAPPI	GRK 10/22*	POLYHNITOS:	GRK 16/08
AFALIONOS:	GRK 01/48*	TELONIA:	GRK 19/01 (See Note 2)
SIGRI:	GRK 18/04*		
(Sigri - In book as 12/02)			

Note 1: See also NI Bulletin, Sept. 1971.
Note 2: See also NC, Vol. 81 #11 (1973) for full description of this mark.

The photo of METELINI (not printed as was dark) was in fact YUNDA (not Lesvos), and is TRK 28/01. The "Arabic" counterstamps used in the island are illustrated in the book.

Kenneth M. MacKenzie (NI #364)
Tenafly, New Jersey

EDITOR'S CORNER

Normally, at this time of year we mail the index for the previous year's NI Bulletin. However, I must plead for delay as there just has not been enough hours in the day or week to get it ready. Due to other pressing duties in readying future issues of the NI Bulletin I wish to advise that the Index will be ready sometime during the first quarter of this year. Should any member care to assist in the editorial work load and prepare a rough index for your editor, the assistance would be most appreciated. You could use the previous years indexes as a guide to the style and layout of the 1975 Index.

On page 5 of this issue we have issued a plea for our French and Spanish speaking members to submit articles in their native language. This has been made possible by the response of several NI members recently to assist the editorial department in translation services. It is hoped that in the February issue we can ask for articles in German and perhaps other languages, as more translators volunteer their services. The editorial staff thanks these fine NI supporters who have volunteered to do translations of articles into English.

Also, your editorial staff wishes to advise that a list of contributors to the NI Bulletin has been forwarded to a committee who will select the winners of Numismatic Achievement awards for the best articles during the period December 1974 through November 1975. The winners of these awards will be announced at the annual dinner in Dallas on December 17, 1975. (Publication of this issue was in this final preparation prior to the dinner date.) The names of these winners will be published in the February issue of the NI Bulletin.

The staff has a good supply of material on hand now, with the exception of articles on Emergency Money (send to Assistant Editor Richard S. Upton), thanks to the many recent contributors. However, keep in mind that at 32-36 pages per month, a supply can be used up much faster than you would think. We are always in need of newly written numismatic material and give this type of material priority over the reprints which have been appearing. An exception is this month's reprint by the famous English author Charles Dickens which was a great find by member Bill Mullan. A second of these Dickens reprints, "History of a Bank of England Note", will appear in these pages during the first half of 1976.

One item that is desperately needed is short filler items. They are invaluable to fill out 1/2, 1/3, 1/4 and lesser space pages. Please make an effort to send us a few of these items inthe months ahead.

Hopefully, all of our membership had a bountiful holiday season and the staff takes pleasure in wishing you a bountiful and prosperous 1976.

Editors

PUBLICATION DEADLINE FOR THE NI BULLETIN:

The Friday following the first Wednesday of each month (this is a change) is the deadline for receiving material to be published in the NI Bulletin for the following month.

THE FIRST BANK-NOTE FORGERY

by Charles Dickens

(Reprinted from The Banker's Magazine, 1850, pp. 361-369)

(Editor's Note: Our thanks go out to NI member William E. Mullan, Jr., who discovered two articles on English bank-notes written by the famous English novelist, Charles Dickens (1812-70). The second, "History of a Bank of England Note", will appear in a subsequent issue of the NI Bulletin.)

(Reduced size photographs are by courtesy of The Bank of England.)

VIOTTI's division of violin-playing into two great classes -- good playing and bad playing -- is applicable to bank-note making. The processes employed in manufacturing good bank-notes we have already described (History of a Bank of England Note, pp. 251-258); we shall now cover a few pages with a faint outline of the various arts, stratagems, and contrivances employed in concocting bad bank-notes. The picture cannot be drawn with very distinct or strong markings. The tableaux from which it is copied are so intertwisted and complicated with clever, slippery, ingenious scoundrelism, that a finished chart of it would be worse than morally displeasing,--it would be tedious.

All arts require time and experience for their development. When any thing great is to be done, first attempts are nearly always failures. The first bank-note forgery was no exception to this rule, and its story has a spice of romance in it. The affair has never been circumstantially told; but some research enables us to detail it:--

In the month of August, 1757, a gentleman living in the neighbourhood of Lincoln's Inn Fields, named Bliss, advertised for a clerk. There were, as was usual even at that time, many applicants; but the successful one was a young man of twenty-six, named Richard Vaughan. His manners were so winning, and his demeanour so much that of a gentleman (he belonged indeed to a good county family in Staffordshire, and had been a student at Pembroke Hall, Oxford), that Mr. Bliss at once engaged him. Nor had he occasion, during the time the new clerk served him, to repent the step. Vaughan was so diligent, intelligent, and steady, that not even when it transpired that he was, commercially speaking, "under a cloud", did his master lessen confidence in him. Some inquiry into his antecedents showed that he had, while at college, been extravagant; that his friends had removed him thence; set him up in Stafford as a wholesale linen-draper, with a branch establishment in Aldersgate Street, London; that he had failed, and that there was some difficulty about his certificate. But so well did he excuse his early failings, and account for his misfortunes,

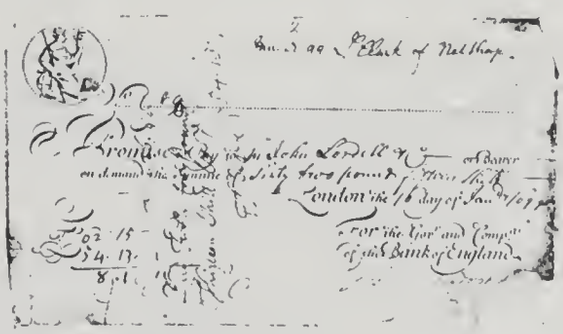
that his employer did not check the regard he felt growing towards him. Their intercourse was not merely that of master and servant. Vaughan was a frequent guest at Bliss's table; by and by a daily visitor to his wife, and -- to his ward.

Miss Bliss was a young lady of some attractions, not the smallest of which was a handsome fortune. Young Vaughan made the most of his opportunities. He was well-looking, well-informed, dressed well, and evidently made love well, for he won the young lady's heart. The guardian was not flinty-hearted, and acted like a sensible man of the world. "It was not", he said on a subsequent and painful occasion, "till I learned from the servants and observed by the girl's behaviour that she greatly approved Richard Vaughan, that I consented; but on condition that he should make it appear that he could maintain her. I had no doubt of his character as a servant, and I knew his family were respectable. His brother is an eminent attorney." Vaughan boasted that his mother (his father was dead) was willing to reinstate him in business with a thousand pounds; five hundred of which was to be settled upon Miss Bliss for her separate use.

So far all went on prosperously. Providing Richard Vaughan could attain a position satisfactory to the Blisses, the marriage was to take place on the Easter Monday following, which the calendar tells us happened early in April, 1758. With this understanding, he left Mr. Bliss's service, to push his fortune.

Months passed on, and Vaughan appears to have made no way in the world. He had not even obtained his bankrupt's certificate. His visits to his affianced were frequent, and his protestations passionate; but he had effected nothing substantial towards a happy union. Miss Bliss's guardian grew impatient; and, although there is no evidence to prove that the young lady's affection for Vaughan was otherwise than deep and sincere, yet even she began to lose confidence in him. His excuses were evidently evasive, and not always true. The time fixed for the wedding was fast approaching; and Vaughan saw that something must be done to restore the young lady's confidence.

About three weeks before the appointed Easter Tuesday, Vaughan went to his mistress in high spirits. All was right: his certificate was to be granted in a day or two; his family had come forward with the money, and he was to continue the Aldersgate business he had previously carried on as a branch of the Stafford trade. The capital he had waited so long for was at length forthcoming. In fact, here were two hundred and forty pounds of the five hundred he was to settle on his beloved. Vaughan then produced twelve twenty-pound notes: Miss Bliss could scarcely believe her eyes. She examined them. The



Showing the earliest medallion on the notes. Signed by Thomas Madockes, Chief Cashier, 1699-1739

Example of note in use at time of Vaughan's forgery.

paper she remarked seemed rather thicker than usual. "O", said Bliss (sic), "all bank-bills are not alike." The girl was naturally much pleased. She would hasten to apprise Mistress Bliss of the good news.

Not for the world! So far from letting any living soul know he had placed so much money in her hands, Vaughan exacted an oath of secrecy from her, and sealed the notes up in a parcel with his own seal; making her swear that she would on no account open it till after their marriage.

Some days after, that is, "on the 22d of March" (1758), we are describing the scene in Mr. Bliss's own words, -- "I was sitting with my wife by the fireside. The prisoner and the girl were sitting in the same room, -- which was a small one, -- and although they whispered, I could distinguish that Vaughan was very urgent to have something returned which he had previously given to her. She refused, and Vaughan went away in an angry mood. I then studied the girl's face, and saw that it expressed much dissatisfaction. Presently a tear broke out. I then spoke, and insisted on knowing the dispute. She refused to tell, and I told her that until she did, I would not see her. The next day I asked the same question of Vaughan; he hesitated. 'O!' I said, 'I dare say it is some ten or twelve pound matter, -- something to buy a wedding bawble with.' He answered that it was much more than that, it was near three hundred pounds! 'But why all this secrecy?' I said; and he answered, it was not proper for people to know he had so much money till his certificate was signed. I then asked him to what intent he had left the notes with the young lady? He said, as I had of late suspected him, he designed to give her proof of his affection and truth. I said, 'You have demanded them in such a way that it must be construed as an abatement of your affection towards her.'" Vaughan was again exceedingly urgent in asking back the packet; but Bliss, remembering his many evasions, and supposing that this was a trick, declined advising his niece to restore the parcel without proper consideration. The very next day it was discovered that the notes were counterfeits.

This occasioned stricter inquiries into Vaughan's previous career. It turned out that he bore the character, in his native place, of a dissipated and not very scrupulous person. The intention of his mother to assist him was an entire fabrication, and he had given Miss Bliss the forged notes solely for the purpose of deceiving her on that matter. Meanwhile the forgeries became known to the authorities, and he was arrested. By what means does not clearly appear. The "Annual Register" says that one of the engravers gave information; but we find nothing in the newspapers of the time to support that statement; neither was it corroborated at Vaughan's trial.

When Vaughan was arrested, he thrust a piece of paper into his mouth, and began to chew it violently. It was, however, rescued, and proved to be one of the forged notes; fourteen of them were found on his person, and when his lodgings were searched twenty more were discovered.

Vaughan was tried at the Old Bailey on the 7th of April, before Lord Mansfield. The manner of the forgery was detailed minutely at the trial: -- On the 1st of March (about a week before he gave the twelve notes to the young lady) Vaughan called on Mr. John Corbould, an engraver, and gave an order for a promissory note to be engraved with these words: --

"No._____.

"I promise to pay to_____, or Bearer, _____,
London_____."

There was to be a Britannia in the corner. When it was done, Mr. Sneed (for that was the alias Vaughan adopted) came again, but objected to the execution of the work. The Britannia was not good, and the words, "I promise", were too near the edge of the plate. Another was in consequence engraved, and on the 4th of March Vaughan took it away. He immediately repaired to a printer, and had fourty-eight impressions taken on thin paper, provided by himself. Meanwhile, he had ordered, on the same morning, of Mr. Charles Fourdrinier, another engraver, a second plate, with what he called a "direction", in the words, "For the Governor and Company of the Bank of England." This was done, and about a week later he brought some paper, each sheet "folded up", said the witness, "very curiously, so that I could not see what was in them. I was going to take the paper from him, but he said he must go upstairs with me, and see them worked off himself. I took him upstairs; he would not let me have them out of his hands. I took a sponge and wetted them, and put them one by one on the plate in order for printing them. After my boy had done two or three of them, I went down stairs, and my boy worked the rest off, and the prisoner came down and paid me."

Here the court pertinently asked, "What imagination had you when a man thus came to you to print on secret paper, 'The Governor and Company of the Bank of England'?".

The engraver's reply was,-- "I then did not suspect any thing. But I shall take care for the future." As this was the first Bank of England note forgery that was ever perpetrated, the engraver was held excused.

It may be mentioned as an evidence of the delicacy of the reporters that, in their account of the trial, Miss Bliss's name is not mentioned. Her designation is "a young lady". We subjoin the notes of her evidence: --

"A young lady (sworn). The prisoner delivered me some bills; these are the same (producing twelve counterfeit bank-notes sealed up in a cover, for twenty pounds each); said they were bank-bills. I said they were thicker paper, -- he said all bills are not alike. I was to keep them till after we were married. He put them into my hands to show he put confidence in me, and desired me not toshow them to any body; sealed them up with his own seal, and obliged me by an oath not to discover them to any body. And I did not till he had discovered them himself. He was to settle so much in stock on me."

Vaughan urged in his defence that his sole object was to deceive his affianced, and that he intended to destroy all the notes after his marriage. But it had been proved that the prisoner had asked one John Ballingar to change first one, and then twenty of the notes; but which that person was unable to do. Besides, had his sole object been to dazzle Miss Bliss with his fictitious wealth, he would most probably have intrusted more, if not all the notes, to her keeping.

He was found guilty, and passed the day that had been fixed for his wedding as a condemned criminal.

On the 11th May, 1758, Richard William Vaughan was executed at Tyburn. By his side, on the same gallows, there was another forger, William Boodgere, a military officer, who had forged a draught on an army agent named Calcroft, and expiated the offence with the first forger of Bank of England notes.

The gallows may seem hard measure to have meted out to Vaughan, when it is considered that none of his notes were negotiated, and no person suffered by his fraud. Not one of the forty-eight notes, except the twelve delivered to Miss Bliss, had been out of his possession; indeed, the imitation must have been very clumsily executed, and detection would have instantly followed any attempt to pass the counterfeits. There was no endeavour to copy the style of engraving on a real bank-note. That was left to the engraver; and as each sheet passed through the press twice, the words added at the second printing, "For the Governor and Company of the Bank of England", could have fallen into their proper place on any one of the sheets only by a miracle. But what would have made the forgery clear to even a superficial observer was the singular omission of the second "n" in the world England.*

The criticism on Vaughan's note of a bank clerk examined on the trial was: -- "There is some resemblance, to be sure; but this note" (that upon which the prisoner was tried) "is numbered thirteen thousand eight hundred and forty, and we never reach so high a number." Besides, there was no water-mark in the paper. The note, of which a fac-simile appeared in our eighteenth number, and dated so early as 1699, has a regular design in the texture of the paper; showing that the water-mark is as old as the bank-notes themselves.

Vaughan was greatly commiserated. But despite the unskilfulness of the forgery, and the insignificant consequences which followed it, the crime was considered of too dangerous a character not to be marked, from its very novelty, with exemplary punishment. Hanging created at that time no remorse in the public mind, and it was thought necessary to set up Vaughan as a warning to all future bank-note forgers. The crime was too dangerous not to be marked with the severest-penalties. Forgery differs from other crimes not less in the magnitude of the spoils it may obtain, and of the injury it inflicts, than in the facilities attending its accomplishment. The common thief finds a limit to his depredations in the bulkiness of his booty, which is generally confined to such property as he can carry about his person; the swindler raises insuperable and defeating obstacles to his frauds if the amount he seeks to obtain is so considerable as to awaken close vigilance or inquiry. To carry their projects to any very profitable extent, these criminals are reduced to the hazardous necessity of acting in concert, and thus infinitely increasing the risks of detection. But the forger need have no accomplice; he is burdened with no bulky and suspicious property; he needs no receiver to assist his contrivances. The skill of his own individual right hand can command thousands; often with the certainty of not being detected, and oftener with such rapidity as to enable him to baffle the pursuit of justice.

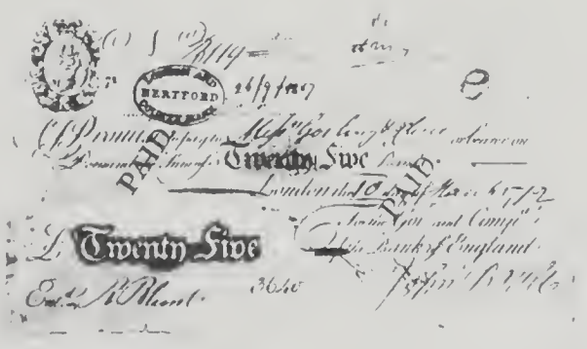
It was a long time before Vaughan's rude attempt was improved upon; but in the same year (1758), another department of the crime was com-

* Bad orthography was by no means uncommon in the most important documents at that period; the days of the week, in the day-books of the Bank of England itself, are spelt in a variety of ways.

menced with perfect success, -- namely, an ingenious alteration, for fraudulent purposes, of real bank-notes. A few months after Vaughan's execution, one of the northern mails was stopped and robbed by a highwayman; several bank-notes were comprised in the spoil, and the robber, setting up with these as a gentleman, went boldly to the Hatfield post-office, ordered a chaise and four, rattled away down the road, and changed a note at every change of horses. The robbery was, of course, soon made known, and the numbers and dates of the stolen notes were advertised as having been stopped at the bank. To the genius of a highwayman this offered but a small obstacle, and the gentleman-thief changed all the figures "1" he could find into "4's". These notes passed currently enough; but on reaching the bank, the alteration was detected, and the last holder was refused payment. As that person had given a valuable consideration for the note, he brought an action for the recovery of the amount; and at the trial it was ruled by the Lord Chief Justice, that "any person paying a valuable consideration for a bank-note, payable to bearer, in a fair course of business, has an understood right to receive the money of the bank."

It took a quarter of a century to bring the art of forging bank-notes to perfection. In 1779, this was nearly attained by an ingenius gentleman named Mathison, a watchmaker, from the matrimonial village of Gretna Green. Having learned the arts of engraving and of simulating signatures, he tried his hand at the notes of the Darlington Bank; but, with the confidence of skill, was not cautious in passing them, was suspected, and absconded to Edinburgh. Scorning to let his talent be wasted, he favored the Scottish public with many spurious Royal Bank of Scotland notes, and regularly forged his way by their aid to London. At the end of February he took handsome lodgings in the Strand, opposite Arundel Street. His industry was remarkable; for, by the 12th of March, he had planed and polished rough pieces of copper, engraved them, forged the water-mark, printed and negotiated several impressions. His plan was to travel and to purchase articles in shops. He bought a pair of shoe-buckles at Coventry with a forged note, which was eventually detected at the Bank of England. He had got so bold that he paid such frequent visits in Threadneedle Street that the bank clerks became familiar with his person. He was continually changing notes of one, for another denomination. These were his originals, which he procured to make spurious copies of. One day seven thousand pounds came in from the Stamp Office. There was a dispute about one of the notes. Mathison, who was present, though at some distance, declared, oracularly, that the note was a good one. How could he know so well? A dawn of suspicion arose in the minds of the clerks; one trail led into another, and Mathison was finally apprehended. So well were his notes forged

A note for £25 evidently printed in 1771 but not put into circulation until 1772



An example of the notes in circulation used by Mathison

that, on the trial, an experienced bank clerk declared he could not tell whether the note handed him to examine was forged or not. Mathison offered to reveal his secret of forging the water-mark, if mercy were shown to him; this was refused, and he suffered the penalty of his crime.

Mathison was a genius in his criminal way, but a greater than he appeared in 1786. In that year perfection seemed to have been reached. So considerable was the circulation of spurious paper-money, that it appeared as if some unknown power had set up a bank of its own. Notes were issued from it, and readily passed current, in hundreds and thousands. They were not to be distinguished from the genuine paper of Threadneedle Street. Indeed, when one was presented there, in due course, so complete were all its parts; so masterly the engraving; so correct the signatures; so skilful the watermark, that it was promptly paid; and only discovered to be a forgery when it reached a particular department. From that period forged paper continued to be presented, especially at the time of lottery drawing. Consultations were held with the police. Plans were laid to help detection. Every effort was made to trace the forger. Clarke, the best detective of his day, went like a sluth-hound on the track; for in those days the expressive word "blood-money" was known. Up to a certain point there was little difficulty; but beyond that, consummate art defied the ingenuity of the officer. In whatever way the notes came, the train of discovery always paused at the lottery offices. Advertisements offering large rewards were circulated; but the unknown forger baffled detection.

While this base paper was in full currency, there appeared an advertisement in the Daily Advertiser for a servant. The successful applicant was a young man in the employment of a musical-instrument maker; who, some time after, was called upon by a coachman, and informed that the advertiser was waiting in a coach to see him. The young man was desired to enter the conveyance, where he beheld a person with something of the appearance of a foreigner, sixty or seventy years old, apparently troubled with the gout. A camlet surtout was buttoned round his mouth; a large patch was placed over his left eye; and nearly every part of his face was concealed. He affected much infirmity. He had a faint hectic cough; and invariably presented the patched side to the view of the servant. After some conversation, -- in the course of which he represented himself as guardian to a young nobleman of great fortune, -- the interview concluded with the engagement of the applicant: and the new servant was directed to call on Mr. Brank, at 29, Titchfield Street, Oxford Street. At this interview Brank inveighed against his whimsical ward for his love of speculating in lottery tickets; and told the servant that his principal duty would be to purchase them. After one or two meetings, at each of which Brank kept his face muffled, he handed a forty and twenty pound bank-note; told the servant to be very careful not to lose them; and directed him to buy lottery-tickets at separate offices. The young man fulfilled his instructions, and at the moment he was returning, was suddenly called by his employer from the other side of the street, congratulated on his rapidity, and then told to go to various other offices in the neighborhood of the Royal Exchange, and to purchase more shares. Four hundred pounds in Bank of England notes were handed him, and the wishes of the mysterious Mr. Brank were satisfactorily effected. These scenes were continually enacted. Notes to a large amount were thus circulated; lottery-tickets purchased; and Mr. Brank --

always in a coach, with his face studiously concealed -- was ever ready on the spot to receive them. The surprise of the servant was somewhat excited; but had he known that, from the period he left his master to purchase the tickets, one female figure accompanied all his movements, -- that when he entered the offices it waited at the door, peered cautiously in at the window, hovered around him like a second shadow, watched him carefully, and never left him until once more he was in the company of his employer, -- that surprise would have been greatly increased.* Again and again were these extraordinary scenes rehearsed. At last the bank obtained a clew, and the servant was taken into custody. The directors imagined that they had secured the actor of so many parts; that the flood of forged notes which had inundated that establishment would at length be dammed up at its source. Their hopes proved fallacious, and it was found that "Old Patch" (as the mysterious forger was, from the servant's description, nicknamed) had been sufficiently clever to baffle the bank directors. The house in Titchfield Street was searched; but Mr. Brank had deserted it, and not a trace of a single implement of forgery was to be seen.

All that could be obtained was some little knowledge of "Old Patch's" proceedings. It appeared that he carried on his paper coining entirely by himself. His only confidant was his mistress. He was his own engraver. He even made his own ink. He manufactured his own paper. With a private press he worked his own notes; and counterfeited the signatures of the cashiers, completely. But these discoveries had no effect; for it became evident that Mr. Patch had set up a press elsewhere. Although his secret continued as impenetrable, his notes became as plentiful as ever. Five years of unbounded prosperity ought to have satisfied him; but it did not. Success seemed to pall him. His genius was of that insatiable order which demands new excitements, and a constant succession of new flights. The following paragraph from a newspaper of 1786 related to the same individual: --

> "On the 17th of December, ten pounds was paid into the bank, for which the clerk, as usual, gave a ticket to receive a bank-note of equal value. This ticket ought to have been carried immediately to the cashier, instead of which the bearer took it home, and curiously added an 0 to the original sum, and returning presented it so altered to the cashier, for which he received a note of one hundred pounds. In the evening, the clerks found a deficiency in the accounts; and on examining the tickets of the day, not only that but two others were discovered to have been obtained in the same manner. In the one, the figure 1 was altered to 4, and in another to 5, by which the artist received, upon the whole, nearly one thousand pounds."

To that princely felony, Old Patch, as will be seen in the sequel, added smaller misdemeanours, which one would think were far beneath his notice; except to convince himself and his mistress of the unbounded facility of his genius for fraud.

At that period the affluent public were saddled with a tax on plate; and many experiments were made to evade it. Among others, one was invented by a Mr. Charles Price, a stock-jobber and lottery-office keeper, which, for a time, puzzled the tax-gatherer. Mr. Charles

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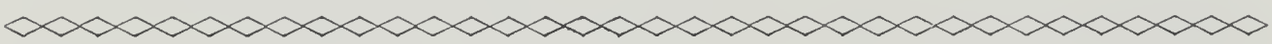
* Francis's History of the Bank of England

Price lived in great style, gave splendid dinners, and did every thing on the grandest scale. Yet Mr. Charles Price had no plate! The authorities could not find so much as a silver toothpick on his magnificient premises. In truth, what he was too cunning to possess, he borrowed. For one of his sumptuous entertainments, he hired the plate of a silversmith in Cornhill, and left the value in bank-notes as security for its safe return. One of these notes having proved a forgery, was traced to Mr. Charles Price; and Mr. Charles Price was not to be found at that particular juncture. Although this excited no surprise, -- for he was often an absentee from his office for short periods, -- yet in due course, and as a formal matter of business, an officer was set to find him, and to ask his explanation regarding the false note. After tracing a man who he had a strong notion was Mr. Charles Price through countless lodgings and innumerable disguises, the officer (to use his own expression) "nabbed" Mr. Charles Price. But, as Mr. Clarke observed, his prisoner and his prisoner's lady were even then "too many" for him; for although he lost not a moment in trying to secure the forging implements, after he had discovered that Mr. Charles Price, and Mr. Brank, and Old Patch, were all concentrated in the person of his prisoner, he found the lady had destroyed every trace of evidence. Not a vestige of the forging factory was left. Not the point of a graver, nor a single spot of ink, nor a shred of silver paper, nor a scrap of any body's handwriting, was to be met with. Despite, however, this paucity of evidence to convict him, Mr. Charles Price had not the courage to face a jury, and eventually he saved the judicature and the Tyburn executive much trouble and expense, by hanging himself in Bridewell.

The success of Mr. Charles Price has never been surpassed; and even afterthe darkest era in the history of bank forgeries, -- which dates from the suspension of cash payments, in February, 1797, and which will be treated in a succeeding paper, -- "Old Patch" was still remembered as the Caesar of forgers.



THE NI BULLETIN IN 1976

As you may have noted, we are starting out 1976 with a 36-page issue, up from the normal 32 pages in 1975. It is worth noting that since 1970, when the present NI Bulletin format was begun, the total annual pages have increased from 180 to 372, over 100% more pages. Pages published in other years were 216 in 1971, 212 in 1972, 316 in 1973, and 372 in 1974 (sameas 1975). This more than double increase in size has only been possible through the continuing support of our contributors, both literary and monetary. When NI members have the occasion to visit in person or through the mails, be sure to let these contributors know that their help is appreciated, not only by the editorial staff but the general membership as well.

A sneak preview of upcoming articles during 1976 would include "The Gatehouse Halfpenny" by O. D. Cresswell; "Designs on the Reverse of Cyprus Coins" by M. L. Santamas; "Dutch Homeland and Colonial Coinage in the Second World War 1940-1948" by Peter Kraneveld; "Grading" by Glen Kunzman; "Bundi and Kotah Coins" by Richard K. Bright; "A Listing of Islamic Dynasties" by Patrick D. Hogan; "Coins of Abu Sa'id (1316-1335 AD)" by Steve Album; "The Story of the Penny" by I. C. G. Campbell; a reprint of "Classification of the Trams of Levon I of Cicilian Armenia" by D. M. Metcalf; and notgeld and many other topics.

"RAIZ" COPPER DUMPS

by Richard K. Bright

Recently, NI member Scott Semans received from an Indian dealer a lot of about 60 pieces of copper dump coins that have in common on the reverse, the Persian word "Raiz", or what on some is probably a corruption of it, within three circles, the center one made up of dots. Raiz means "Current" and refers to the status of the coins at the time of its impression. C. H. Biddulph has described Durrani[1], Sikh[1], and Persian[2] coins that have been counterstamped with a "Raiz" in a circle or cartouche, sometimes with an Hegira Era date. Valentine[3] describes and illustrates a number of coins from the Indian state of Derajat which have the word "Raiz" as the principal feature of the reverse die. Like these latter coins, the present ones under discussion show "Raiz" as the prominent design of the reverse die, but, in addition have the usual Mughul formula, "Manus maimanet sanah jalus zarb ...", the regnal year of Shah Alam II, and the mint name. On the obverse is the Mughul legend, "Sikka mubarak falus badshah Shah Alam", rarely a legible AH date, and frequently one or more of a variety of symbols.

On most of the coins the mint name is illegible or completely off the planchets. Two mints have been identified as having struck some of these coins: Mulharnagar in Indore and Ratlam. Others were struck as obvious imitations of the Ratlam mint coins, probably at a neighboring mint or mints. A likely candidate for one of these mints is Sailana which, though it had no coinage of its own at this early date, is known to have struck false copper coins of other states of less than legal standard. Still others containing different obverse symbols may have been struck at Mulharnagar or some other place but the mint name is off the coins.

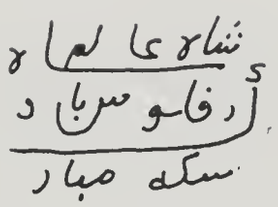
Some of these symbols are well known from coins struck at identified mints such as the star-headed mace of Chhatarpur, the five-lobed leaf of Burhanpur, a scimitar similar to that used on the coins of Ujjain, the yoni used on the Maheshwar mint coins of Indore and Dewas, the small leaf of the coins from Bhilwara in Mewar, and a katar or fish used on coins from several known mints. Probably the unidentified "Raiz" paisas weren't struck at the mints known to use the respective symbols but the possibility exists. Final attribution will have to await the time when coins with legible mint names are discovered.

There is one coin in the lot which appears not to have the obverse legend given above. It shows a spear as a symbol and only "Shah" can be read and then in a different position than usual. On seven other coins most of the obverse is made up of two or three symbols, practically nothing of the legend shows. On the reverse of these coins almost nothing can be seen but what is probably a very degraded writing of "Raiz" in three circles. The writing of this word looks

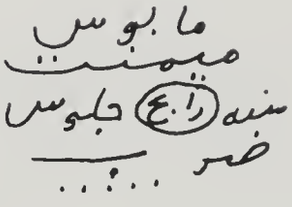
like a Nagari "3" and the suggestion has been made that possibly it was meant to stand for 3 pies which equaled a paisa.

I would like to thank Jan Lingen and Arvind Sanghvi for their help in the study of these coins and also Scott Semans for allowing me to examine them. Plated coins numbered 9, 10, 11, 12, and 29 are in the Lingen collection.

The coins in the subsequent list have portions of the following legends except where noted:



Shah Alam
Falus Badshah
Sikka Mubarak



Manus Maimanet
Sanah (Raiz) Jalus
Zarb (mint name)

1. Mint: Ratlam. رتلام Plate Numbers: 1-4.
Known dates: AH 1197/yr. 24, yr. 25, AH 1198/yr. 26, yrs. 30-31.
Weight: 11.8-14.3gms. Size: 18.0-19.5mm.
Obverse symbols: Two diamonds above "f" of "falus".

Comments: The die cutting is neat and the calligraphy distinctive. "Ba" of "badshah" always within "s" of "falus".

2. Mint: Unknown. Plate Numbers: 5-7.
Known dates: Yrs. 25, 30, 34.
Weight: 7.1-13.9gms. Size: 17.5-21.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Various groupings of dots above "f" of "falus".

Comments: The die cutting is mediocre and the calligraphy debased. Imitation of Type 1. Plate number 5 has instead of "jalu" or "jalus" on the reverse. Plate number 6 is without the "ba" of "badshah" in the "s" of "falus".

3. Mint: Unknown. Plate Number: 8.
Known dates: None.
Weight: 6.7-6.8gms. Size: 14.0-15.0mm.
Obverse symbols: None.

Comments: Very crudely made imitations of Type 1.

4. Mint: (Mulhar)nagar. Plate number: 9.
Known dates: Yr. 30.
Weight: 11.9-13.5gms. Size: 20.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Scimitar.

5. Mint: (Mulhar)nagar. Plate number: 10.
Known dates: Yr. 20 or 30.
Weight: 13.8gms; 5.8gms. Size: 21.0mm. (Paisa).
(1/2 paisa).
Obverse symbols: Unusual jhar or branch.

Comments: instead of "jalu" or "jalus".

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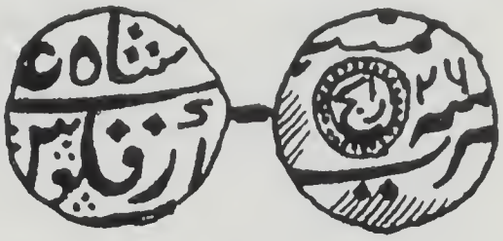

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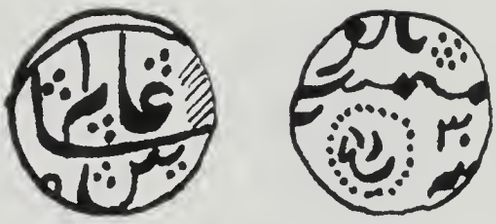

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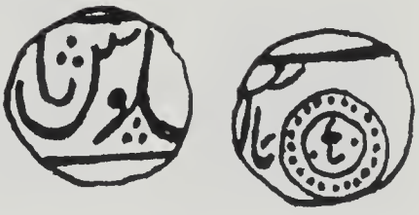

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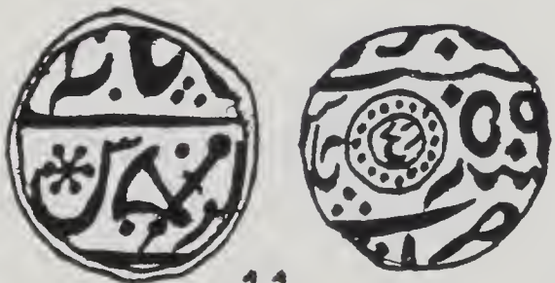

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6. Mint: (Mulhar)nagar. Plate number: 11.
Known dates: Yr. 59.
Weight: 11.6-13.9gms. Size: 18.5-22.5mm.
Obverse symbols: Battle axe.

7. Mint: (Mulhar)nagar. Plate numbers: 12-13.
Known dates: Yr. 5-.
Weight: 13.8-14.1gms. Size: 22.0-22.5mm.
Obverse symbols: An upside down hare with what appears to be a branch for a tail.

8. Mint: (Mulhar)nagar. Plate numbers: 14-15.
Known dates: Yr. 59.
Weight: 13.0-13.9gms. Size: 18.5-23.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Sunface.

9. Mint: Unknown. Plate number: 16.
Known dates: Yr. 20.
Weight: 8.3gms. Size: 18.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Sunface.

Comments: A crude imitation of Type 8 with obverse legend inverted.

10. Mint: Unknown. Plate number: 17.
Known dates: Yr. 20.
Weight: 14.4 & 8.8gms. Size: 20.0 & 19.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Small leaf on twig.

11. Mint: Unknown. Plate number: 18.
Known dates: None.
Weight: 8.5gms. Size: 15.5mm.
Obverse symbols: Fish.

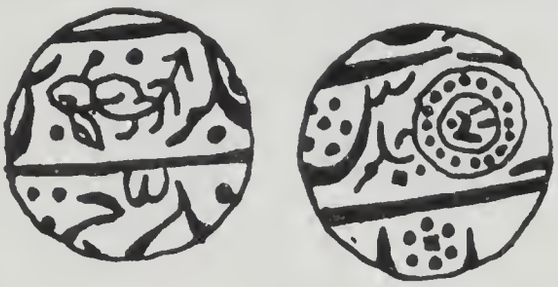
12. Mint: Unknown. Plate number: 19.
Known dates: Yr. 20.
Weight: 7.5 gms. Size: 18.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Five-lobed leaf on stem.

13. Mint: Unknown. Plate numbers: 20-21.
Known dates: None.
Weight: 9.3-10.1gms. Size: 17.5-19.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Scimitar.

14. Mint: Unknown. Plate number: 22.
Known dates: Yr. 2- or 3-.
Weight: 9.1gms. Size: 16.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Katar.

15. Mint: Unknown. Plate numbers: 23-24.
Known dates: None.
Weight: 8.6-10.1gms. Size: 16.0-18.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Yoni.

16. Mint: Unknown. Plate numbers: 25-26.
Known dates: None.
Weight: 7.9gms. Size: 17.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Star-headed mace.



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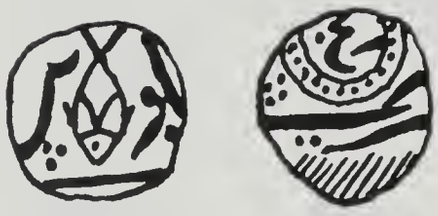

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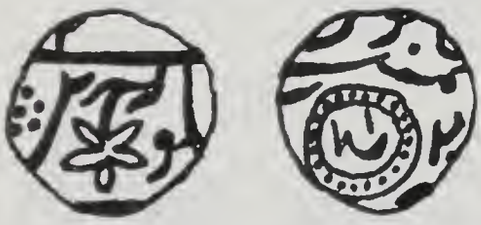

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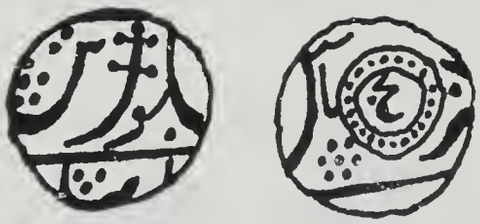

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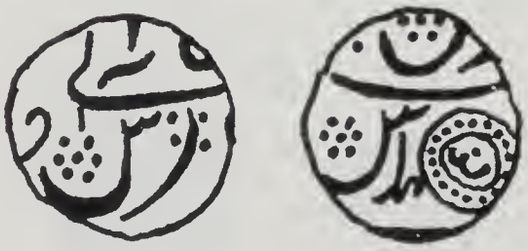

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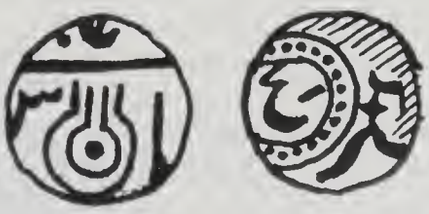

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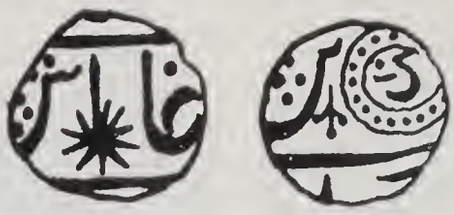

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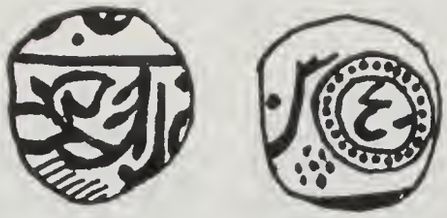

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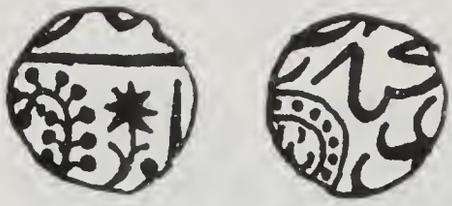

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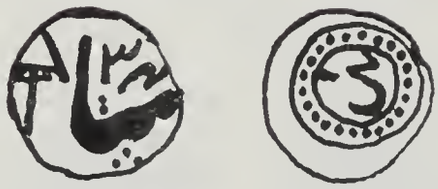

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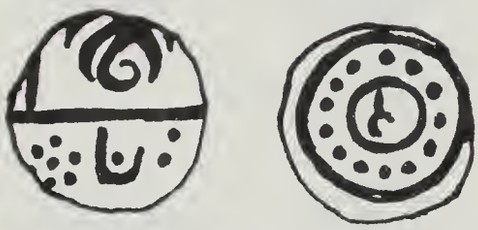

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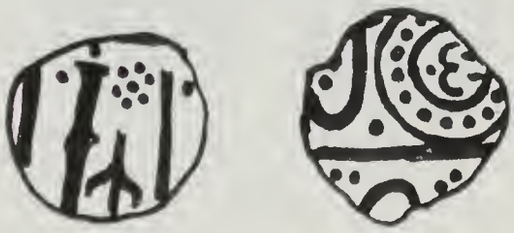

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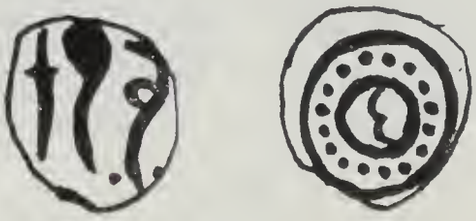

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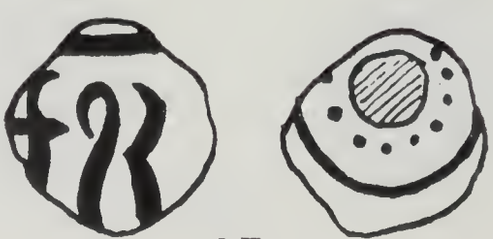


37

17. Mint: Unknown. Plate number: 27.
Known dates: None.
Weight: 7.6gms. Size: 16.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Same as or similar to Type 7 (?).

Comments: This may be an imitation of Type 7 or a 2/3 paisa (?) struck at Mulharnagar.

18. Mint: Unknown. Plate numbers: 28-29.
Known dates: None.
Weight: 13.0gms. Size: 16.0-18.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Jhar plus either a star-headed flower or scimitar.

Comments: The reverse legend is unusual and unread.

19. Mint: Unknown. Plate number: 30.
Known dates: AH (12)34 (?).
Weight: 6.7gms. Size: 15.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Spear.

Comments: Different obverse legend.

20. Mint: Unknown. Plate numbers: 31-34.
Known dates: None.
Weight: 10.0-12.1gms. Size: 17.0-18.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Jhar, scimitar, and trident.

Comments: Very crude workmanship.

21. Mint: Unknown. Plate number: 35.
Known dates: None.
Weight: 12.0gms. Size: 17.5mm.
Obverse symbols: Trident, scimitar (?), and unidentified line.

Comments: Very crude workmanship.

22. Mint: Unknown. Plate numbers: 36-37.
Known dates: None.
Weight: 11.9-12.0gms. Size: 17.0mm.
Obverse symbols: Scimitar and two unidentified symbols.

Comments: Very crude workmanship.

References:

1. Biddulph, C. H.: "Countermarked Durrani and Sikh Coins"; J. N. S. I., v. XXV, Part II (1963), pp. 198-208.

2. ----------: "Countermarked Coins of the Shahs of Persia"; J. N. S. I., v. XXVI, Part I (1964), pp. 69-85.

3. Valentine, W. H.: "Copper Coins of India, Parts I and II"; Spink & Son, Ltd.; 1971 reprint, pp. 194-198.

USE OF "IDENTIFICATION, Please?" IN NI BULLETIN URGED: A periodically appearing section of the NI Bulletin, "IDENTIFICATION, Please?", is available for members use in obtaining attribution on "whatizits". Send your item or items, or photographs, to us and we will be happy to publish a request for aid from the membership in identification.

MOKUM 700 TOKENS

by Peter Kraneveld, Purmerend, The Netherlands

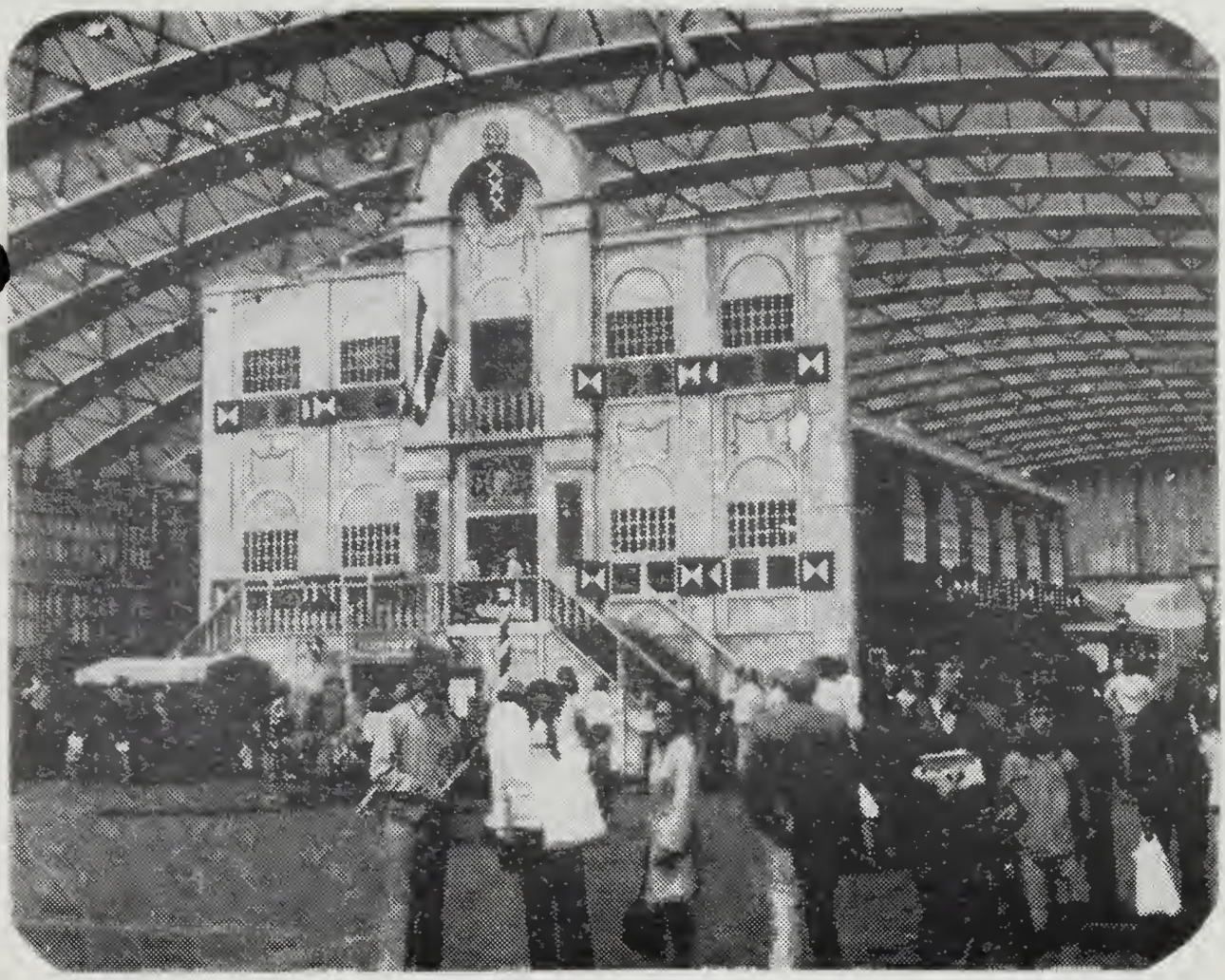
The year is 1275. The German empire has at last an emperor again, but the empire is slowly falling apart. The Italian states are becoming more and more independent. In a few years Switzerland will be formed. The Dukes of Burgundy govern the Low Countries without paying too much attention to the emperor. Within these areas new powers emerge. In Italy: Savoy, Venice, Florence and the Papal States. In Switzerland: Schwyz and Uri, and in the Low Countries: Flanders and Utrecht.

In another Burgundy loan, Holland, Count Floris V is in need of money as he got his little county into a war with England. To get money, he grants privileges and makes villages cities against payment. One of the new cities is "Amstelredamme".

The history of Amsterdam is as long as its numismatic history is short. Apart from some emergency coinage, the only time regular coins were struck in Amsterdam was in 1672 and 1673 when England, France, Cologne and Münster together tried to get rid of the Netherlands once and for all. Some silver riders of those years bear the three Andrew's crosses of Amsterdam. They were struck in one of the city's many defense towers. Today, the Mint Tower still stands, now in the center of Amsterdam on Mint Square. From 1815 to 1816 duits and half duits were struck in Amsterdam for the Netherlands East Indies (Craig #62 and 61) and there the story ends, or would have ended if it had not been 700 years ago that Count Floris gave Amsterdam its city rights.

Amsterdam celebrated its 700th anniversary trying to please everyone, but undoubtedly most people were attracted by what happened in the RAI building, a large exhibition hall on the southern edge of the city. There, a cardboard Amsterdam had been erected with shops, city hall, fire station and many other exhibits. Marriages were performed, fires extinguished and many people walked around in clothes of the late Middle Ages. Entrance tickets included five pieces of 1 florin, which were accepted as payment by the shopkeepers as equivalent to 50 Dutch cents. The pieces were struck by the Utrecht mint and carry the coat of arms of Amsterdam, and the marks of the mint (a Mercury's staff) and its director, Dr. M. van den Brandhof (a cock).

The RAI people decided to strike another piece: a silver 5 florins to serve as a gift to those who had helped setting up the exhibition. They soon learned of a wider interest in these pieces, but, incredibly, had only 1800 pieces minted.



Scene inside the RAI Building
(Photos: Courtesy of Peter Kraneveld)

During the exhibition the pieces were sold by Mr. Jacques Schulman, one of Amsterdam's coin dealers, famous for his high standard auctions. Although the pieces were sold at H. fl. 28,50, or around $11.00 US, and although Mr. Schulman would not sell more than two pieces per person, he had sold his complete stock in two days. Then a price increase started that was seldom seen before. Collectors were paying H. fl. 250.- (or $96.00 US) before the end of the exhibition. One of the most authorative cataloguers in the Netherlands, Johan Mevius, decided to include both pieces in the next edition of his catalogue. His 1976 Edition lists the pieces at H. fl. 2,50 and 500,- ($1.00 and $192.50 US).

NEW ISSUES WITH ASSIGNED YEOMAN NUMBERS (Continued from page 2):

TONGA

*Y34 5 Pa'anga 1975, .999 Silver (40mm)
*Y35 10 Pa'anga 1975, .999 Silver (50mm)
*Y36 20 Pa'anga 1975, .999 Silver (62mm)
*Y37 25 Pa'anga 1975, .9167 Gold (20mm)
*Y38 50 Pa'anga 1975, .9167 Gold (23mm)
*Y39 75 Pa'anga 1975, .9167 Gold (26mm)
*Y40 100 Pa'anga 1975, .9167 Gold (30mm)
(Y34-40: Constitution Centennial)

A VARIETY OF THE KURUŞ OF ABDUL HAMID I

by Samuel Lachman, Haifa, Israel, NI #898

The kuruş of Abdul Hamid I (1187-1203 H/1774-1789A.D.) shows on the obverse the fourline inscription:

Sultan of the two lands and khaqan of the two seas, the sultan the son of a sultan.

The regnal year appears in the third row.

The reverse bears the tughra, and below the inscription:

Struck at Kostantiniye (= Istanbul) 1187.

The coins show in the first seven years an ornament at right of the tughra (Fig. 1), and during years 8 through 16 a flower branch (Fig. 2). The change took place in the eighth regnal year, and it is possible that the kuruş exist in year 8 with the ornament. An onluk, i.e. a 10 para coin in the same design, of year 8 with ornament is in the writer's collection.

Fig. 1

Fig. 2

The form of the flower branch differs considerably over the years.

The ornament, as shown in Fig. 3 was observed in years 1, 2, and 4 to 7. The coin of year 3 has a malformed ornament (Fig. 4).

Fig. 3

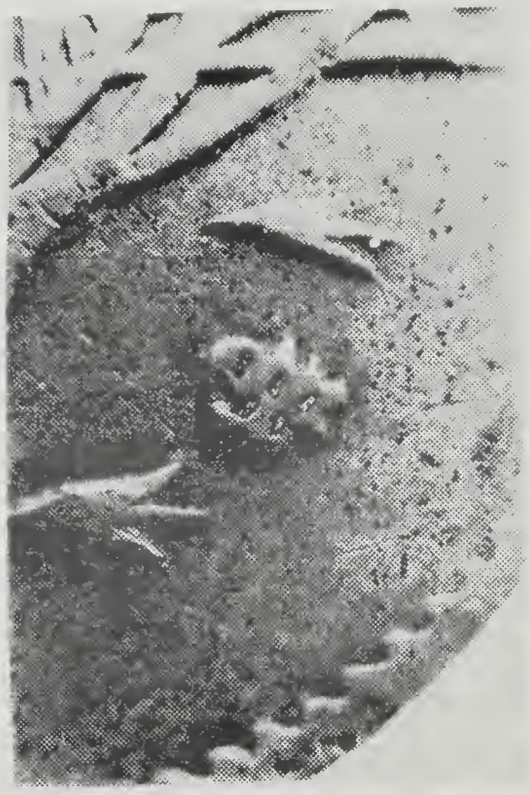


Fig. 4

The same kind of ornament was also found in year 4 (Fig. 5). This deformed ornament may belong to a damaged die or it could be an engraver's error. It seems to have been used at the end of the 3rd and

Fig. 5

the beginning of the 4th year, if this theory is right. The writer has so far not found the normal ornament on a coin of year 3.

NEW MEMBERS NEEDED: NI is always seeking new members who share our interests. We will be glad to send any of your numismatic friends a complimentary copy of the NI Bulletin and an application blank. Also, additional copies of the application blank are available from the Membership Chairman, P. O. Box 30013, Dallas, Texas 75230. Support NI and pledge to sign up at least one new member during 1976.

CHRISTMAS NOTGELD

A CHECK LIST OF NOTGELD WITH CHRISTMAS THEMES

Bolkenhain			
50 pf.	ND	Rev.	Bearded man w/Xmas tree. Stars and branches in border.
Goldberg			
25 pf.	1918 - 31 Dec 1920	Rev.	Last of seven Goldberg citizens on Christmas Eve, 1553.
Grossbreitenbach			
50 pf.	ND	Rev.	Craftsmen making gifts, children with gifts under tree on Xmas.
Kahla			
	20 Nov 1921	Obv.	Pine branches, Christmas candles.
50 pf.	- 31 Dec 1921	Rev.	Traditional nativity scene.
50 pf.	as above	Rev.	Angels appear unto shepherds.
50 pf.	as above	Rev.	Adoration of the Magi.
50 pf.	as above	Rev.	Shepherds visit manger.
50 pf.	as above	Rev.	The flight into Egypt.
50 pf.	as above	Rev.	Xmas tree above landscape.
Langeln			
	ND	Obv.	Stylized Christmas tree.
25 pf.	- 31 Dec 1921	Rev.	All have elf and different scenes from Christmas tale.
25 pf.	as above		
50 pf.	as above		
50 pf.	as above		
75 pf.	as above		
75 pf.	as above		
Lauscha			
50 pf.	1919	Rev.	Christmas tree ornaments.
50 pf.	1920	Obv.	Tree branch, ornaments.
50 pf.	1921	Obv.	Tree/ornaments.
		Rev.	Glass blower making ornaments.
Neustadt (Sachsen-Coburg)			
50 pf.	1 Dec 1918	Rev.	St. Nicholas carrying toys.
Possneck			
25 pf.	ND (1921)	Rev.	Carolers singing in snow. Xmas?
75 pf.	ND (1921)	Rev.	Colored Christmas lights.
Schneeberg			
pf.		Rev.	Christmas angel with candles.
pf.		Rev.	Miner with candle.
Schwarzenberg			
50 pf.	31 Dec 1918	Obv.	Man holding two candles.
Sonneberg			
50 pf.	20 Feb 1920	Rev.	St. Nicholas, Xmas tree, toys.
10 pf.	21 Jun 1921	Obv.	Small St. Nick with toys.

Steinheid
50 pf. 31 Dec 1920 Obv. Branch with Xmas ornaments.

Stutzerbach
Set of six notes — All show different steps in glass making. Not Christmas themes but dated "Issued Christmas 1921".

The collecting of notgeld by theme or topic is subject to individual preference and interpretation. Universal agreement is not to be expected.

In the United States a wreath is almost exclusively a Christmas symbol, especially when made of pine or holly. Hermann Krause points out that in Germany it is merely a symbol of celebration that may be displayed on various occasions. Krause maintains that a note is not truly thematic unless it was so designed and understood to be so by the city of issue. The following few items have been listed as Christmas by some collectors but were probably not intended as such originally.

Meiningen
50 pf. 15 May 1920 Obv. Wreath.

Prisdorf
Six diff. ND Obv. Pine tree.

Treuchtlingen
50 pf. ND Obv. Christmas festoon?
Rev. Festoon, wreaths, eagle/wreath.

All of the above notes were issued in Germany.

The following notes are Austrian:

Bruck
40 Heller 15 Jan 1921 Rev. Ogre who visits bad children.
80 Heller as above Rev. As above.
1/2 Krone as above Rev. St. Nicholas, toys, angels.
60 Heller as above Rev. As above.
75 Heller as above Rev. Children dancing, Xmas themes.
90 Heller as above Rev. As above.

Oberndorf
10 Heller 30 Dec 1920 Obv. "Silent Night" issue. Joseph Mohr, church, Franz Gruber.
20 Heller as above Obv. As above.
50 Heller as above Obv. As above.

Linz?

Arndorf?

Some additional remarks by Hermann Krause regarding German Christmas notgeld:

The majority of the notes are from towns in Thuringia. Small wonder since the Thuringia Forest is the home of the glass blowing industry, and consequently of the glass Christmass tree ornaments. However, the neighboring state of "Saxonia"

also has a Christmas or toy district. The southern part of Saxony is formed by the "Erzgebirge" (literally ore mountain range) whose wooded slopes are mainly inhabited by poor wood carvers and miners (silver). The wood-carved miner in his traditional garb as candle-holder became simply a symbol of Christmas that everybody recognized. Many times these candle-sticks come in pairs - a miner and angel.

Many of the issues on this list have been illustrated in Coin World and World Coins during the Christmas season is years past. The first check lists of Christmas notgeld were compiled by Dr. M. R. Talisman and published in the Journal of the Emergency Money Society (no longer in print). This list, though not identical to Talisman's, has been compiled and published with his consent and cooperation. Some information on other topics may be found in Notgeld Newsletter, Vol. 1.

Dwight L. Musser
Box 305
Ridge Manor, Fla. 33525

NEW USSR DENOMINATION FOUND

by Igor V. Victorov, Chelyabinsk, USSR, NI #887

Never before did the Russian coin collectors think of this coin. The denomination of 25 Kopecks had not been unusual before 1917 when the "quarters" were rather common.

The quarters had been struck since Peter the Great, and practically the mintage of them was ceased in 1896. Then two more years appeared in 1900 and 1901, these being the last Russian quarters known.

The piece shown in the photograph is a mystery, but not a fantasy, as it is struck of the same metal as the current 10, 15 and 20 Kopecks of 1955, the size and weight being the same as the ones of the later 50 Kopecks released into circulation in 1961.

The coin does not seem to be a fake, and no one who has seen and examined it has any slightest doubt of its being a real coin. All agree upon the concept that this is one of the patterns prepared for the prospective money reform announced in 1961. Such patterns are known to have been struck as early as in 1953, and the design of the obverse of the modern standard 50 Kopeck and 1 Rouble pieces goes back to the patterns of 1953.

A GREEK COUNTERMARK RECORDED

by Kenneth M. MacKenzie

The publication of a book[1] on the countermarks found on Ottoman coins of the nineteenth century has attracted the attention of collectors and stimulated their interest in tracing the provenance and meaning of many of the marks recorded. One of the coins illustrated in the work (on page 27) has the countermark designated as GRK 13/01, and since, occasionally the Greek letters are absent on specimens known, the crescent and star forming part of the mark has been given the number VAR E/12. This particular countermark was discussed by Mr. Panos Kokkas in a communication to the NI Bulletin in April 1974 (page 105).

This writer has since come across a reference to it in a travel book published in London in 1903, entitled The Tale of a Tour in Macedonia by G. F. Abbott, in which the following reference is to be found on page 231:

"....A good illustration of the financial chaos which prevails throughout the empire is afforded by the currency. So difficult it generally is to obtain small change that copper pieces long obsolete in the larger towns on the coast still circulate in the interior. In some districts, like Nigrita and Sirpa, a local coinage is in use, bearing on the reverse the crescent with Greek letters NΣ engraved between its horns. In other places, again, the tradesmen are obliged to coin tin tokens in order to meet the demands of their customers.

"The scarcity of copper pieces is simply due to the indolence of the Government and to their indifference to the interests of the people. But the confusion in the value of gold and silver, though arising from deeper causes is no less bewildering to the stranger. The Turkish pound he finds, in some districts is worth 100 piastres, in others 108, 112, or 120. This difference often applies to various trades in one and the same district. The Government offices follow one valuation, the innkeeper another, the muleteer a third, and so on. Needless to comment on the multitude of forged money."

1 - K. M. MacKenzie and S. Lachman. Countermarks of the Ottoman Empire 1880-1920 (London 1975)

The large town near the districts mentioned by Abbott is Serres, and it is assumed by the writer that the two letters used are the initial letters of the places, Nigrita and Serres (rather than Sirpa). The known specimens of coins with this mark are all of the 5 paras denomination, the one illustrated above is 1277/year 4, Constantinople mint.

CONTENTS OF NI REFERENCE COLLECTION (CONTINUED FROM LAST MONTH):

Only coins grading Fine or better are being listed in this continuing inventory of the NI Reference Collection. Members are invited to donate any issues not listed. Members desiring to borrow coins from the collection for research purposes can do so by paying postage and insurance both ways.

TURKEY: C283 - Yr. 21; C285 - Yr. 16; Y5 - Yr. 4; Y32 - Yr. 20; Y33 - Yr. 11; Y43 - Yr. 3, 5; Y44 - Yr. 5; Y45 - Yr. 4, 6; Y46a - Yr. 8; Y93 - 1949; Y96 - 1951; Y97 - 1948, 1956; Y111 - 1958, 1961, 1964, 1965; Y112 - 1962, 1966, 1967; Y113 - 1959, 1962, 1965; Y114 - 1960, 1966; Y115 - 1962; Y116 - 1960; Y117 - 1963; Y117a - 1964, 1965, 1967.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA: Y5a - 1943, 1943D; Y20a - 1970S; Civil War Token - HG #887; Expo 70 Medal.

URUGUAY: Y16 - 1936; Y31 - 1953; Y34 - 1960; Y35 - 1960; Y46 - 1968.

VATICAN CITY: Y49 - 1952; Y50 - 1952, 1953; Y51 - 1951.

VENEZUELA: Y29a - 1958; Y30a - 1948; Y35 - 1954; Y40 - 1965; Y42 - 1967.

WEST GERMANY: Y101 - 1949F; Y102 - 1949D, 1949F, 1949G, 1949J; Y103 - 1949D, 1949F, 1949G, 1949J; Y104 - 1949D, 1949F, 1949J; Y105 - 1950D, 1950F, 1950G, 1950J, 1966F, 1967J, 1969D, 1969F; Y106 - 1950G, 1959D, 1959J, 1961F, 1965D, 1965J; Y106a - 1968D, 1969D, 1969J, 1971D; Y107 - 1950D, 1950F, 1950J, 1950J; Y108 - 1950D, 1950F, 1950G, 1950J, 1966F, 1968F; Y109 - 1950D, 1950J; Y110 - 1950F; Y117 - 1957G, 1958D.

YUGOSLAVIA: Y5 - 1925; Y16 - 1938; Y25 - 1953; Y25 - 1953; Y27 - 1953; Y28 - 1953; Y29 - 1955; Y30 - 1955; Y31 - 1955; Y36 - 1965; Y37 - 1965; Y38 - 1965; Y40 - 1965.

End of first complete listing. Our thanks to the many NI members who have so kindly donated items to the collection as a result of this listing.

We will restart the listing at the beginning next month in the same alphabetical order as printed in the new 3rd Edition Krause/Mishler Standard Catalog of World Coins. You will note a vast improvement in the size of the collection, though still small, but growing immensely, in this new updated listing.

Marvin L. Fraley, Curator,
NI Reference Collection

VARIATIONS OF THE SECURITY EDGE ON THE FRENCH INDO CHINA Y24 1946 & 1947 COPPER-NICKEL 35mm 1 PIASTRE

by Anton Fox

After examining and comparing about 20 each of the above dated coins, I have come to the conclusion that there exist three (3) varieties of the Security Edge on both dates. The following is my summary and findings of my research.

TYPE #1 (No Breaks): In this type the Security Edge runs all the way around the edge of the coin and has no breaks in it. As we start to follow the edge in an area called a "SPACE", we see no dots or X's. The edge then starts in a pattern of alternating eleven sets of double DOTS and ten sets of double X's for the first half of the coin, or about 170 to 180°. Then we come to another space and the pattern changes to alternating seven sets of single DOTS and six sets of double X's and then we come to an area called a "GAP" which has a small dot in the middle of it and the pattern runs again in seven sets of single DOTS and six sets of double X's until we come back to the starting point again. On the coins dated 1946 the Security Edge favors the center on the edge of the coin and the ones dated 1947 it favors the obverse of the coin.

TYPE #2 (One Break): In this type the pattern is the same as Type #1 EXCEPT it starts with a BREAK in the first space (the security edge is not connected) and the edge breaks off to one side of the coin. The rest of the pattern is the same as Type #1 also. The security edge on this type is more or less in the center of the edge on the coin.

TYPE #3 (Two Breaks): In this type the pattern is also the same as Type #1 EXCEPT it starts with a break in the first space and has another break in the second space just after the eleven sets of double dots and ten sets of double X's and the rest of the pattern follows Type #1. In this type also the security edge is more or less in the center of the edge on the coin.

Naturally, as with any other endeavor, for every ton of sand we are to sift, only a few ounces of gems remain, and only then will questions like "Was the Security Edge milled/rolled on the coin before, during or after the coin was struck?" be answered.

The Security Edge on the French Indo China Y22 1939 20 Centime are all the same with no variations.

I request from fellow French Cochin and Indo China collectors further information, opinions, ideas and/or comments. Any assistance and/or correspondence will be deeply appreciated.

USE OF THE MEMBER NOTICE PAGE: NI members are reminded that the back page of each NI Bulletin is reserved for FREE member notices. The only restrictions, other than the US numismatics ban, are that no "For Sale" type notices will be accepted and research type notices will be given preference over "Wanted" and other type notices when the page should become oversubscribed in any given month, which has not happened recently. This page is for your use and it should be noted that those using the page have reaped excellent results.

BOOK REVIEWS

Countermarks of the Ottoman Empire 1880-1922, by K. M. MacKenzie and S. Lachman. Hawkins Publications of London, England, 1974 (In point of fact, not available until mid-1975), £4.50. Obtainable through B.A.Seaby, London or Numismata Orientalia, P. O. Box 212, Tenafly, N. J. 07670.

For many years, collectors of Turkish coins have came across bronze pieces of Sultans from Abdul Mecij on, which bear one or more countermarks. They are most commonly in Greek, but are also found in Turkish, Armenian, Hebrew and Latin. Occasionally such marks are found on non-Turkish coins. This is not surprising since foreign currencies were used in Turkey from early times, though more generally these were silver or gold.

There have been various notes, or references, to such coins over the years (the book gives a bibliography of them), but this is the first attempt to assemble together all the known countermarks and what is known about them. The specimens found in 22 collections, public and private, are listed. An illustration of every known countermark in these collections is given with its measurement, and sometimes, a possible translation. There are 15 double plates. Some of the illustrations are far from clear but it must be remembered that often the coins are battered - since demonetized coins were used - and the actual countermark poorly struck.

Whether these coins actually were to deal with the shortage of small change in a period of inflation, whether by the churches on some of the Greek islands (Turkish until 1923), or by the belediyes (municipalities) of small towns, there seems little evidence if only one or two specimens are known. The best evidence would be hoards, of which but few have so far been found.

It has been suggested that these were merely tokens, struck for special occasions, as holidays and feasts. Where a hoard of any size is found this might be considered evidence against such a theory. Some coins may be purely personal, just as dimes and other silver coins in our own history have been countermarked on one side with someone's initials. However, this would be more likely in the case of silver, rather than of battered copper. It does seem significant that where the countermark is associated with a special place, it is usually somewhere small. These would be the very places which would be short of small change. The fact of their being struck by religious authorities (in the Greek islands) would be completely in keeping with the Ottoman practice of making the spiritual leader, or head, of a relgious community, responsible for a great many things that had nothing to do with religion.

While it is usually mentioned where only one specimen with a particular countermark is known, it is a pity that each type does not have against it the number of specimens known in the various collections. In but a few cases is anything known of the original provenance of the coin. All except 3 of mine - other than those I bought from Hadziotis - were found in the flea market in Ismir over a period of two years. All are different.

The arrangement of the book is good and I think it is a useful addition to the library of any collector of Islamic coins, in particular of the Ottoman. It has 56 pages (8" x 11-1/2") including plates.

The reasons I have spent so much space on a minor book is the numismatic history of the area. The Greek cities of Asia Minor made use of countermarks; the Roman Imperial cities made even greater use. This was so that the local coinage of other cities would, or could, be accepted in their own. Much work still needs to be done about this, and we have many such pieces in the Nebraska Cabinet. Under the Byzantines, it was not common, except for the Sicilian coinage under Heraclius. In the 11th and 12th centuries it reappears again in the form of Arabic countermarks in the so-called anonymous follis of the period. These were used in great quantities by the invading forces, but often without the countermark and with the Byzantine designs filed or smoothed down. Finally it reappears in the various Arabian Emirates, but most of all in the State of Quaiti. In some quarters, some of these issues, particularly of the Hejaz and Nejd, are considered of doubtful authenticity. I, myself do not know. But, since, in this part of the world, silver and gold were usually weighed in any financial transaction, and widespread use was made of foreign currencies, particularly the Maria Theresa thaler, it is logical that there would be countermarks. Much work yet remains to be done in this field for all periods.

Comments by I. C. G. Campbell,
Curator of Numismatics,
University of Nebraska State Museum.

NOTGELD OF THE BRITISH ZONE OF OCCUPATION

by Elmer E. Wright and Mary L. Wright

After January of 1945 the notes issued by the "Reichskreditkassen" (German Government Loan Office) had become worthless as money. They were first issued in Poland, 2 October 1939, by order of the Supreme Army Commander, dated 23 September 1939. Before the war was over, these had circulated in Belgium, Denmark, Greece, France, Luxemburg, Russia, Yugoslavia and the islands of Jersey and Guernsey.

In order to combat a shortage of currency, the Reichskreditkassen notes were declared legal tender in the British Zone, when officially stamped by an office of the Reichsbank. One of the Reichsbanks furnished a supply of the 5, 20 and 50 mark notes, for use as Notgeld, by means of an official bank stamp. These notes were good until 5 April 1946. The following issues are known, there may be others. All such notes are rare.

Flensburg	20 mk Reichsbank authority
Heidi	50 mk Reichsbank branch
Heidi	50 mk Reichsbank authority
Husum 1	20 mk Reichsbank authority
Husum 3	50 mk Reichsbank authority
Kappeln	20, 50 mk Reichsbank branch
Kiel	50 mk Reichsbank branch
Newmunster	50 mk Reichsbank branch
Rendsburg	5, 50 mk Reichsbank branch
Schleswig	20, 50 mk Reichsbank branch

MEMBER NOTICE PAGE

Pierre Genier, Postfach 20, 8058 Zurich, Switzerland: I will be glad to provide NI members a BU specimen of the new 1975 5 Franc commemorative at face value, plus postage. I have secured 20 pieces for this purpose. Please write.

Gordon Jarman, Jr. 3131 Guilford Ave., Baltimore, MD 21218: WANTED - Correspondence with collectors interested in trading or selling coins of the Netherlands East Indies, Native States, and also any literature dealing with same. Also, am interested in locating a copy of a journal known as "T'oung Pao" (not T'ung Pao) which Coole mentions in connection with an article by Gustave Schlegal (1898) pointing out an "error in attribution in Millies". Can any NI member help on this?

Gerald Easton, P. O. Box 491, Camas, Wn. 98607: The following items are WANTED. Will buy or trade if possible.

For type, any date India Y49a 1/2 Pice.
For type, India Y19 1877 Half-Anna. Would like VF, but grade not critical.
Proof restrike India coins of George VI 1938-1944.
India 1911 half rupee Y44, "pig elephant" type.
1943 Bombay India rupee. Need the large head type of 1941 only.
India Y45a 1939 Bombay only.

Kenneth W. West, Parkweg 25A, The Hague, Netherlands: I would like to get in touch with anyone interested in making up a table of Indian States, Dynasties, and coin types. Please write.

Frederick R. Wolfe, Huntington Alloys, Inc., P. O. Box 1958, Huntington, W. Va. 25720: Need to purchase 2 coins: ALGERIA 5 Dinars dated 1974 - issued in pure nickel. Commemorates the revolution of Nov. 1, 1954. Reverse side of coin shows an armed soldier advancing. Please write, or call collect (A/C 304 - 696-6226).

Dwight L. Musser, Box 305, Ridge Manor, Fla. 33525: I have compiled a "Collector's Guide" for owners of the "Serienscheine" notgeld catalog in particular and other notgeld collectors in general. I supply these FREE to those who buy catalogs from me. Other collectors who desire a copy are requested to send 50 cents to help with production costs, postage and handling (postage stamps are OK).

Bruce W. Smith, Box 57, Iola, Wisc. 54945: I would like to purchase (or trade -- see trade list in Dec. 1975 NIB, MNP) the following for my reference library: Numismatist - Jan., Feb., Apr., May, July, Oct. 1952; Mar., Apr., May, Aug., Oct. 1953; all 1954 except July; Jan., Feb., June, Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. 1955. Cash on the Line - need all issues 1964-?. Spink's Numismatic Circular - Apr. 1964; Mar., July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov. 1965; all 1966 except Feb., Apr., May; all 1967; Jan. through June 1968; May, July, Aug., Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec. 1972; all 1973; all 1974. World Coins Magazine - Jan., Apr., June 1964; Feb. 1965. Numismatic Literature (ANS) - Need nos. 1-49, 58, 65, 69-76; also need index to #1-41. China Journal - want all issues. Numismatic & Philatelic Journal of Japan - need all issues. Numismatic Bulletin - need all issues. Numismatic Chronicle - need all issues. Calcoin News - need some issues in the 1950's and 1960's. (More wants will be listed in next month's M. N. Page.)